



London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Central Council Monday, January 31, 2011

Present: Elisabeth White, German Gutierrez, Dev Sainani, Anne Langille, Lauren Touchant, Vicki Esses, Naeem Qureshi, Munira Ahmed, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Debbie Turnbull, Huda Hussein, and Nina Hamou.

Via Teleconference: Jean-Pierre Cantin.

Guests: Katherine Haine, City Media and Jennifer Hollis, London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC).

Regrets: Kelly McManus, Henri Boyi, George Perez and Asma Ahmad.

Welcome & Introductions

Elisabeth welcomed Jennifer Hollis from LMIEC and Katherine Haine from City Media.

Guest Presentation – Jennifer Hollis, London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC)

Jennifer provided an overview and background on the LMIEC. The LMIEC is focused on “Engaging employers in immigrant employment solutions.” LMIEC supports the business community’s needs with the resources to hire skilled immigrants.

Some successes of LMIEC include:

- 160+ business leaders actively championing newcomer talent within their companies, business networks, sector industries and/or small and medium sized enterprise client base.
- 150+ employers actively marketing.
- 120+ newcomers hired through companies involved in LMIEC Employer Leadership Strategy.

Key next steps for LMIEC are:

- Increased employer utilization of regional recruitment and retention resources
- Increasing business awareness of tools/resources available
- Making connections between employer and newcomers
- Attracting and retaining newcomer talent to our region

LMIEC celebrates the successes in small companies. The mentorship opportunities focus on soft skills and understanding the Canadian work culture.

ACTION: Presentation will be shared with Central Council members via email.

Strategic Multimedia Communication Plan (SMCP) – Katherine Haine, City Media

Katherine presented the work plan for the SMCP which was developed in consultation with the Advisory Committee. She asked the Central Council to provide her with feedback on the direction of the work plan. The work plan is divided in three parts:

- Phase one- Begin work plan Jan. 21- Jan. 28
- Phase two- Draft of SMCP Feb. 3- Feb. 18
- Phase three- Community input Feb. 28 – March 7

A first draft of the plan will be presented to Central Council at the next meeting on Monday, February 28.

Desired outcomes of the SMCP are:

- To create a multilingual social networking platform
- To engage ethno-communities
- Aggregation ethno-communities to one voice
- Translate and communicate to host community

Feedback from the Central Council:

- It is important to recognize the diversity within the immigrant community but still to heighten the unique needs of the community as a whole.
- Information from the SMCP needs to be carefully framed.
- When informing programs and services we need to focus on changing the hearts and minds of the host community not those who are working with immigrants and understand their needs.

Katherine clarified that the “Host Community” refers to all of London and Middlesex and that each Sub-council will be the generator of messages.

Co-Chair Remarks – Elisabeth White

Elisabeth confirmed that a tentative meeting has been scheduled with Cheryl Smith, Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy and Lynne Livingstone, Chair of Child & Youth Network, for March 28. Details of the meeting will be confirmed.

A sub-committee was formed to discuss Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) budget recommendations for the LMLIP contract extension.

ACTION: Anne, Vicki and Jean-Pierre volunteered to be part of the sub-committee.

At the Municipal Immigration Committee meeting, CIC and Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration (MCI) representatives discussed the need for LIP work to continue and expand.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes of November 30, 2010 were approved.

Sub-council Updates

Education Sub-council, Jean-Pierre Cantin, Chair

The Education Sub-council is concerned about the CIC funding cuts. Most of the priorities deal with increasing services, now they are being asked to do more with less money. This will have an impact on services offered to immigrants.

The ESL mapping is underway and will be completed by March 31.

Other priorities will not be completed by March 31. In March, the Sub-council will review and discuss priorities they will pursue in the next year.

The CIC funding cuts were found to be an issue for all the Sub-councils.

Elisabeth shared that she had chatted with Kelly and they discussed waiting another month to see what is happening in the community before moving much further regarding discussing impact of funding cuts. Some LIPs in the province have taken a political approach and others feel they are not in a position to advocate.

There was concern from the group that despite the declining immigration rate, there is an existing population in London that has not moved.

There was also concern that the funding cuts will affect the implementation of the Community Immigrant Strategic Plan.

ACTION: Discussion on response from the LMLIP will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Inclusion & Civic Engagement, German Gutierrez, Chair

German shared that a meeting with community members will be held early February to discuss the funding application through the CIC Inter-Action Event Stream for events which will engage immigrants and the host community.

In terms of creating a Neighbourhood Immigrant Engagement Strategy, volunteers have been compiling and adapting resources and best-practices from our community into a resource manual.

Employment Sub-council, Anne Langille, Chair

Employment Sub-council will meet their year one plan and discussion on priorities for year two plan has started.

Settlement Sub-council, Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Chair

First draft of the Settlement Brochure will be ready by the week of February 7.

Sub-council added Managing Finances as another priority. South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre has implemented 8 workshops this year. An environmental scan will be done to see what other agencies are doing in this area. Opportunities for information sharing and collaboration will be discussed.

Two other areas which were discussed, but not implemented in year one, are the priorities of Family Challenges and Housing. These may be taken in year two plan when the group meets in March.

Health & Wellbeing Sub-council, Debbie Turnbull, Chair

A funding proposal will be put in through the Healthy Community Fund in order to advance a strategy related to Mental Health and Addiction. A brochure on Health Literacy is also being developed. Discussions in the other working groups will continue and will be re-evaluated in March.

Debbie announced that she has accepted a new position and will resign from the Health & Wellbeing Sub-council as Chair.

Justice & Protection Services Sub-Council, Nina Hamou on behalf of Trevor Hinds, Chair

Nina shared that Marcel will be adapting the Toronto Police Guide to be used with the ESL and LINC lesson plans. He will then get a copy printed and bound and get an estimate by February. Sheila Carson is examining her funds to develop lesson plans and a DVD.

In terms of the Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF) application to improve awareness of legal rights and responsibilities in Canada through ongoing outreach to immigrants and applying culturally sound approaches, we are waiting to hear if London InterCommunity Health Centre can take the lead on the application. Huda is in the process of connecting with the OTF Staff to discuss our plan for this community project and an application will be submitted accordingly.

ACTION: A document will be created to highlight key achievements of all sub-councils to community.

Proposed March 7 Community Event – Elisabeth and Huda

Elisabeth shared that there are resources in the budget for a community event if we wish to do one. The event would be an opportunity to update the community on what we have done and for Katherine to get community input on the SMCP. Huda shared the proposed agenda for the day. As outlined in the proposed agenda, community will be provided with optional sessions for the late afternoon. The agenda was distributed to members. Elisabeth reiterated that this is a proposed activity and Council may decide to hold or not to hold the Community Meeting.

Agreed to proceed with March 7 event and to start with overview of successes followed by SMCP consultation with optional session after break.

The members felt that there was not enough time in the March 7 agenda to provide an update by each sub-council. The optional sessions should be relevant, engaging and should also celebrate the success of the LMLIP.

It was recommended that future community events should be held in the evening.

WCI Update – Vicki Esses

Vicki will provide an update at the next meeting.

Wrap-up and Next Meeting

The issue of communication protocols was brought up. It was clarified that only the Co-Chairs will address the media on the LMLIP.

February 28, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Kinsmen Recreation Centre, Room 4.
Regrets to: nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca

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